

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 12-23 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention related to a system for the operation of a dental chair operatively connected to a computer provided separate from the dental chair control unit. Specifically, application has claimed uniquely distinct feature in the instant invention which not found in prior art either singularly or in combination:

a computer interface, via which information is transmitted in form of function codes from the dental chair control unit to the computer by way of actuating elements,

wherein the computer has software capable of managing said at least one function code and by means of which the action assigned to said at least one function code in saved configuration file in the storage area is initiated, functions of the software being carried out in a running PC application,

an where the assignment of said at least one function code associated with actuating elements or status indicator on the dental chair to prescribed actions are capable of being configured by modifying the configuration file for the software.

In another words, as indicated by the applicant, the invention claimed a remote operation is realized by a specialized software which manages the functions of the command from the dental chair control unit corresponding to the selected PC application and specific for the PC application. Such that, the dental chair would behave differently responding to the dental chair control unit for the specific PC application.

In Prior Art

Stoeckl U.S. Patent No. 5,484,188 teaches an invention directed to a dental patient chair having upper part adjustable in height, a back rest variable in inclination, and a head rest part that can be adjusted relative to the back rest. specifically, Stoeckl teaches a control means having a plurality of program selectable with control elements that correspond to different chair positions with reference to the adjustable chair parts. However, Stoeckl does not teach the dental chair operatively connected to a computer provided separate from a dental chair control unit and a computer has software capable of managing the function code transmit from the dental chair control unit where the function of the software being carried out in a running the computer application.

Gemunder et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,798,396 teach an invention relates to a foot switch control and interface permitting the operation of a computer by manipulating the foot switch control with one's foot, where the present invention has general application in medical or dental situation. Specifically, Gemunder et al. teach the foot switch comprising multiple programmable function keys capable of performing a particular function depending upon the operating program current running in a computer. However, the foot switch control is exclusively for operating the computer and video camera. Gemunder does not teach a dental chair or a dental chair control unit with its own capacities of operating the dental chair. Further, although the particular function of the switch in the foot control could be modify or relabeled in according to the user choice or the software programs utilizing the computer, the behave of the foot switch control of Gemunder does not change depending on a selected software program utilized in the computer, a stroke will be always the same input for all software programs.

The above prior art, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the present invention obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VINCENT T. TRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7210. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas c. Lee can be reached on (571)272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 2115

/Vincent T Tran/

Examiner, Art Unit 2115

/Thomas Lee/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2115